

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 45

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dennis E. Lilly of
Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dennis E. Lilly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lilly was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, devoted to helping Tennessee's youth reach their full potential, Mr. Lilly served with acumen and alacrity as Director of Foreign Students and Religious Affairs and Assistant Director of the University Student Center at East Tennessee State University before taking a well-deserved retirement in 1985; he earned the respect and appreciation of the students, faculty, staff, and administration alike for the exemplary quality of his work and the personal concern that he obviously felt for each individual; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Washington County, Mr. Lilly was born seventy-nine years ago to the late Ira B. and Lessie Ann Hubbard Lilly, and was raised in Beckley, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, "Semper fidelis," Robert E. Lilly served faithfully with valor as a United States Marine during World War II; he joined in the courageous generation of Americans who left their normal lives and answered the call of duty to defend our nation and protect and ensure freedom for future generations around the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lilly displayed his commitment to education by earning a bachelor's degree in music from Western Kentucky University and a master's degree in music and recreation from West Virginia University; he spent the early years of his career as recreation director of Munsey Memorial Methodist Church from 1952-1957, and as an administrator at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst from 1957-1967; and

WHEREAS, Dennis E. Lilly was an active member of his community, with memberships in Masonic Lodge No. 486 F&AM, the Kingsport Jericho Shriner's Temple, American Legion Post No. 24, and the United Commercial Travelers Council No. 552, of which he was a former grand counselor for the state; an Eagle Scout, Mr. Lilly provided guidance to the young men of his community as a scout master for the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian, Mr. Lilly was a member of the Erwin Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully as an elder and as choir director for eighteen years prior to his retirement this year; an inspiration and example to many, he formerly served as choir director for First United Methodist Church of Johnson City and for First United Methodist Church in Elizabethton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lilly was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dennis E. Lilly enjoyed the loving companionship of the former Katherine "Katie" June Donham, the daughter of George Donham and Iva Ginkel of Fairmont, West Virginia, since they were joined in holy matrimony on November 26, 1952; he was the devoted father of David R. Lilly, Michael Lilly, Jason D. Lilly, Marjorie Lilly Harvey, and the late Suzanne Lilly James; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lilly was also the loving and proud grandfather of Ryan David Lilly, Katherine Celeste Lilly, Zachary Michael Lilly, Madison Claire Lilly, Nicholas Donham Lilly, Devin Rashdae Lilly, and Garrett Adams Lilly; and

WHEREAS, Dennis E. Lilly leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence, discipline, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dennis E. Lilly, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Lilly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.